

For the Week of June 20, 2022

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Spongy Moth Information

Recently, UVM Extension Entomologist, Margaret Skinner, and the State of Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM) and Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) have reported on the second year of Spongy Moths in Vermont. Similarly to what has been explained in previous newsletters, they report that the Spongy Moth is not native to Vermont and an outbreak hasn't occurred since the 1990s. Additionally, the drought from 2020 to 2021 likely allowed the Spongy Moth population to accumulate and has led to the current outbreak; however, populations usually subside after two to four years from factors including starvation, malnutrition, viral or fungal diseases, and parasitism. The reports do present an optimistic outlook for tree health and a decrease in caterpillar population, as quoted below:



“Although consecutive years of defoliation may stress and weaken a tree, most trees will survive and produce a second flush of leaves after the spongy moth caterpillars have stopped feeding, in late June-early July. The drought Vermont experienced over the past couple of years has subsided, which will help trees by reducing additional stress. Precipitation during the caterpillar phase can also promote natural predators and a subsequent reduction in the population. We will continue to monitor the population and the impacts on trees closely.”

To read the full articles, please visit the following links:

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/spongy-moths>

<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/agency-agriculture-food-markets-news/vermont-officials-report-second-year-spongy-moth-outbreak>

Colchester Historical Society Updates

The historic Log Schoolhouse at Airport Park is now open for the summer!

Friday - Monday, 10 am - 2 pm

Bring the whole family for a fun and interesting step back in time at this lovely little museum. Parking and admission are free. Be sure to stop in to browse around and experience the days before cell phones, computers, electricity and even indoor



plumbing! Special thanks to our volunteer hosts and caretakers who help make this a great success!

Slots available for “Make-and-Take” Summer Classes Offered for Children

Three “Make-and-Take” classes will be offered this summer for children ages 6-10. Classes will be hosted by the Colchester Historical Society and held at the historic Log Schoolhouse located at Airport Park. All materials will be provided, and the topics will be linked to life and pastimes of the Log Schoolhouse time period.

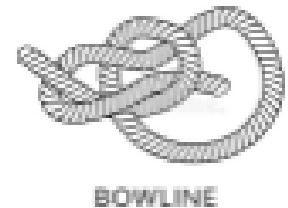
The classes will be presented by Michelle Penca, a long-time volunteer teacher of art, gardening, literacy, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). She has taught classes in five different states to learners of all ages. She has a passion for sharing the love of learning while making it fun and accessible.

Register *now* with Carol Reichard at winchris65@comcast.net or 802-497-3036. Advanced registration is required, and the fee is \$5 per child per class.

Why Knot?

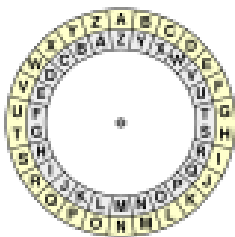
Saturday, July 23, 10–11 a.m.

Knot tying is a good life skill with many practical applications. Children in earlier times used knots in the home and on the farm. Participants will learn several basic knots and receive a knot sampler to take home. Square knots, clove hitches, half hitches, and bowline knots will be demonstrated. Ages 8 to 10. Class size is limited to 8 children.



Codes and Ciphers

Saturday, August 20, 10–11 a.m.



In use for thousands of years, codes and ciphers can be simple to amazingly complex. We will focus on basic codes that children will use to code their name and maybe a secret message. The instructor will demonstrate Atbash, Grid, Caesar Cipher and Scytale. Each child will go home with cipher wheels and code sheets to continue to use the knowledge learned. This class, open to ages 8-10, is a nice STEM activity. Class size is limited to 8 children.

Congratulations to Saint Michael's Playhouse, celebrating 75 years of live, professional summer theater!

Be sure to check out their [website](https://saintmichaelsplayhouse.org/about/theater-history) to see what performances are being offered this summer. Tickets will sell fast. There's an interesting story about the theatre's history at <https://saintmichaelsplayhouse.org/about/theater-history>.



Lastly, a special thanks to the wonderful volunteers who helped with the gardens at the Historical Society recently. Wow! We weeded, fertilized, planted, edged, watered, and mulched -- all in record time and in perfect weather. Oh, and we drank lemonade and ate cookies, too. The gardens look absolutely beautiful! Volunteers will pitch in throughout the summer months to ensure the gardens are watered, weeded, and deadheaded.



Pictured, left to right, are: Bob Furst, Suzanne Furst, Clinton Reichard, Carol Reichard, Cara Tripodi Cunningham, Wanda Morin, and Andre Morin. Not available for the photo were: Annette Mulcahy, Pat Carman, Nancy Burke, and Bonnie Potter.

Department Updates

Burnham Memorial Library

The Friends of the Burnham Library Annual Used Book Sale is back, with thousands of used books for sale over one weekend only!

Location: Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane, Colchester

Sale Dates/Times:

Friday, June 24 - 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm: Best Selection!



Saturday, June 25 -9:00 am to 3:00 pm: Shop all day!

Sunday, June 26 - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm: Sunday Special - Pay by Donation! Great Deals!

Book Shelves Need a clean-out?

Location: Colchester High School, 131 Laker Lane, Colchester

Book Donation Times:

Monday, June 20 – Book Drop off: 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Wednesday, June 22 – Sorting and drop-off: 10:00 am– 2:00 pm

Have time to volunteer for a (fun) good cause?

We will need volunteers the week of June 20 - 26. Contact us at FOBLVT@gmail.com for more on dates and times. Thank you!!

*We gratefully accept like-new, recent edition books, fiction, and non-fiction, in good condition. Children's books are always in demand. Please note, we cannot accept damaged, dirty, or musty books, digests, catalogs, encyclopedias, periodicals, text books, etc.

Department of Public Works



Annual inspections this spring revealed the presence of a beaver dam beneath the Creek Farm Road bridge. The dam raised the water level on the up-stream side of the bridge approximately 2' to 3'. DPW partnered with the Town's Technical Rescue Team to remove the dam. Following the removal of the dam, it was noted that the elevated water levels had flowed in behind the stone abutments and caused significant erosion, as well as some displacement of the stone abutment material. The combination of this damage, as well as ongoing deterioration of the superstructure, warranted corrective measures.

To ensure the ongoing safety of motorists crossing over this structure, DPW partnered with VTrans for the installation of a temporary bridge. The temporary structure was delivered to the site on Monday, June 6, 2022, assembled on June 7th, and moved into place on June 8th. The installation of the bridge was performed by DPW crews under the oversight of VTrans.





make them aware of the work and of the temporary bridge closure during the bridge installation process. DPW also collaborated with Colchester Rescue, Tech Rescue, and Fire in both the planning and implementation processes to secure emergency services – without interruption – to the residents on the other side of the bridge during the temporary bridge closure if they became necessary.

This project was the first of its kind for the Town of Colchester. DPW worked incredibly hard to prepare the site in accordance with technical plans and specifications provided by the State, coordinate hauling of the temporary bridge to the site, and ensure the required tools and materials were available for the bridge assembly. Before construction began, DPW contacted local residents to



the road as needed to ensure thru traffic was accommodated as much as possible. The temporary bridge was delivered to the site in parts and sections, and the DPW Highway Crew worked together to assemble the bridge and move it into place. The project was completed according to plan and within the expected timeframe, thanks in very large part to the excellent teamwork exhibited by the DPW Highway Crew.

Throughout the stages of the project, the DPW Highway Crew coordinated with VTrans to prepare and layout the work area, mobilized materials and equipment to the site, provided temporary traffic control, and widened



Department of Parks & Recreation

Bayside Beach

There will be lifeguards at Bayside Beach Monday-Friday from 9:30 am-5:30 pm from June 20, 2022 until August 12, 2022. These are the same dates we have had in the past. However, due to a shortage of certified lifeguards, and even a shortage of people interested in training, we are unable to provide weekend coverage.



51st Annual Colchester 4th of July Celebration

Monday, July 4th, 2022

Visit Colchester for the July 4th holiday this summer! Colchester Parks & Recreation's 51st Annual Celebration will occur on Monday, July 4th and include a Fun Run, Parade, and evening of musical entertainment, inflatables, food trucks, and fireworks.

The day begins with a 5K Fun Run starting at 8:15 AM at Union Memorial School and traveling down Middle Road and back. Race registration will be at Union Memorial School, 253 Main Street, Colchester from 7:30 – 8:00 AM. Refreshments will be offered by Shaw's Supermarket after the race.

The 51st Annual 4th of July Parade will take place at 10:00 AM on Blakely Road. The route runs about one mile, from Colchester High School to Lavigne Road. Visitors are welcome to park in public lots at the High School, Middle School, Malletts Bay School, and Colchester Town Offices. Blakely Road will be closed to all traffic for the duration of the parade.

Entertainment at Bayside Park begins at 5:00 PM with inflatables and food vendors. Live music will be provided by "The Hitmen," playing your favorite party rock tunes from the '70s, '80s, '90s, and '00s from 6:45 – 8:45 PM.

Colchester's famed fireworks show will take place at dusk and will be launched from the Bayside Softball Field. Parking for evening events is available at Colchester High School and Colchester Middle School.

For more details visit: <https://colchestervt.gov/363/4th-of-July-Celebration>

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, June 28th, 6:30 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or alternatively send a note, up to 1,000 words, to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with "Citizens to be Heard" in the Subject and their name and address in the body of the email. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting (as the information packet for the current meeting is sent out along with the agenda).

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>



Colchester – What do you want to do today?

- Agenda: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Planning Commission: Tuesday, June 21, 7:00 pm, at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Agendas available: <http://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>

Note: Agendas are posted at least 48 hours before the meeting, so you may find past agendas when clicking the link. Revisiting the link closer to the date of the meeting should provide you with the current agenda.

Town Employment? The Town of Colchester is currently offering jobs ranging from lifeguard, to seasonal parks staff, to summer camp counselor, to library associate, to public works customer service. The following link explores current career opportunities:

<https://colchestervt.gov/321/Human-Resources>

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMAO2v>

For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email townmanager@colchestervt.gov